

SITUATION REPORT NO. 9
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 1, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Search and rescue teams on March 31 located a LaMoure County woman and her daughter who were killed when their pickup and horse trailer struck a washout on a county road on Bonehill Creek early March 29.
3. DAMAGES: Flood warnings remained in effect on April 1 for the James River and its tributaries in LaMoure and Dickey Counties. The National Weather Service reported that the river was cresting at 16.1 feet early April 1 at the city of LaMoure.

The Souris River has exceeded its 18-foot flood stage at Sherwood and is nearing flood stage at Foxholm and Westhope. The river reached 18.94 feet at Sherwood on April 1. The river at Foxholm was at 9.02 feet and at 8.56 feet in Westhope. Flood stage at both locations is 10 feet. Forecasts by the Weather Service call for river levels to exceed flood stage, but remain two to five feet below flood of record levels set in 1976.

The Sheyenne River at Lisbon continues to rise above its 11-foot flood stage. The River stage was recorded at 12.83 feet on April 1. The Weather Service predicts the river at Lisbon will rise to 18.5 feet, one-half foot below its 1975 flood of record level.

Runoff is flowing over state and federal highways in eastern North Dakota, including: I-29 near Drayton; I-94 at the Ayr interchange, located between Casselton and Fargo; N.D. Highway 200, east of Carrington; N.D. Highway 13 in Linton; N.D. Highway 11 near Ashley; and N.D. Highway 13 at two locations, east of Wishek and near Edgeley. N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) crews have flagged these locations and speeds have been reduced to allow for safe travel. The N.D. DOT closed the westbound driving lane of I-94, between Casselton and Fargo. Traffic on N.D. Highway 13 near Edgeley has been reduced to one lane to accommodate sandbags and water pumps located on the road shoulder.

The N.D. State Water Commission reported that Spiritwood Lake in Stutsman County had risen to 1,446.92 feet on March 31, above its natural overflow elevation of 1,446.30 feet. The

N.D. Game and Fish Department has installed a screen to capture and retain the lake's fish. Last summer, the lake's all-time high elevation was 1,445.98 feet. It was incorrectly reported in Situation Report #7 that the lake's March 27 level was below last summer's high. It should have been stated that the lake level was .19 feet above last summer's high.

In LaMoure County, flooding along the Bonehill and Cottonwood Creeks continues to create problems. Near Edgeley, flood waters forced water pipes to float upward and break, leaving the city temporarily dependent on its storage system. The break has since been repaired. Other damages include nine bridges and nine county and township roads, which have been washed out by flood waters.

In Dickey County, road washouts isolated one farm family, and a rising Maple River isolated another. The river has since receded allowing one family access. County road crews plan to fill road washouts to allow access for the other family. Also in Dickey County, ice in the Maple River sheared off a power pole, causing a temporary outage for 12 farm families.

Two city of Mandan water mains located under the Heart River have broken, requiring the State Youth Correctional Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Center to look for alternative sources of water. These mains have not yet been repaired.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The N.D. National Guard plans to continue ice dusting efforts on April 1 along a 38-mile stretch of the Red River of the North, from Grand Forks north to the N.D. Highway 17 bridge in Walsh County. Aerial applications began March 31, utilizing 45 National Guard members, including 21 members as aviation support and 24 as ground crew members. Crews will empty approximately 13,000 50-pound sandbags, which the city of Grand Forks donated. Equipment in use includes three helicopters, three tractor-trailers, two fork lifts and six support vehicles. The National Guard and the N.D. DOT had earlier used sand for ice dusting efforts along the Sheyenne and Red Rivers, an effort to enhance snowmelt, reduce the formation of ice jams, and improve the flow of water during the spring melt.

The N.D. Highway Patrol assisted the National Guard's ice dusting efforts by conducting traffic control on N.D. Highway 81, northwest of the city of Grand Forks. Troopers rerouted traffic to enable National Guard helicopters to land on the highway for loading sandbags. Helicopter crews faced wind gusts of up to 30 miles per hour (mph).

The State Water Commission loaned four pumps to flood recovery efforts for the city of Beulah.

In the Devils Lake Basin, construction has begun on new water storage sites to keep water from entering Devils Lake. The State Water Commission is continuing its Available Storage Acreage Program (ASAP) as a means to lessen flood damages by compensating landowners to store water on lowlands. Since January 1, the State Water Commission had received 80 applications to participate in ASAP. Last fall, 19 new sites, capable of holding 1,000 acre-feet of water, were constructed to capture 1997 runoff. This spring, 40 additional sites are under construction to capture about 2,000 acre-feet of water. Total water storage obtained through ASAP since 1996 amounts to 11,000 acre-feet. The State Water Commission is continuing to accept applications and develop new ASAP sites.

The N.D. Department of Human Services is preparing its disaster coordinators in eastern regional offices for responding to needs of flood victims. The agency distributed copies of the N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Disaster Procedures Handbook and the North Dakota Emergency Operations Plan to the coordinators.

The N.D. Department of Health has distributed a news release outlining flood safety tips to North Dakota's media.

The city of Beulah has issued a disaster declaration. Emergency declarations have been signed by officials for Logan County and the city of Frontier in Cass County. Since late February, when the first flood declaration was signed, 18 counties, 31 cities and one township have issued emergency declarations. Officials for eight counties and three cities have signed disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director